

I am very concerned about the proposed change in rules. Already, even before the changes, there have been signs that media consolidation has had untoward effects: specifically, there has been a homogenation of play lists at radio stations, failure to feature important news items that reflect poorly on the owners, and centrally-directed editorial content favorable to the owners. With increased consolidation, it is reasonable to expect that these behaviors shall increase and have a detrimental effect on a bulwark of our national character--that of a free press. I strongly urge this commission to give due weight to the impact of changing these rules and am disturbed that a majority of commissioners favors them at this juncture. At minimum, media ownership needs to be prominently and publicly disclosed, on a quarterly basis, and mandatory.